

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/056,277

Examiner

Mr. Terry K. Cecil

Applicant(s)

LAMB, DOUGLAS R.

Art Unit

1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment of 10-28-2005 and the t. interview of 11-5-2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20, 22, 25-26, 28, 34-38 and 40 respectively renumbered upon allowance as claims 1-11.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 1-24-2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 1105.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

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Note: Claims 20, 22, 25-26, 28, 34-38 and 40 are allowed and have been respectively renumbered upon allowance as claims 1-11.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with C. Miller on 11-4-2005.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- The claims have been amended as in the attached claims set.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- The subcombination claims 29-31 and 33 have been canceled.
- Independent claims 20 and 34 have been amended to further define the support means using "consisting of" terminology.
- The closest cited art—WO 99/18837—fails to anticipate or render obvious, alone or in any proper combination, the support means elevating the filter above the bottom of the bucket and *consisting of* two baffles resting on the bucket bottom; attached to or formed integrally

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with filter downward side; traverse the length and width of the filter at right angles thereto;
and separate the space in the bucket below the filter into four substantially equal volumes.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee.

Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Contact Information:

- Examiner Mr. Terry K. Cecil can be reached at (571) 272-1138 at the Carlisle campus in Alexandria, Virginia for any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner. Note that the examiner is on the increased flextime schedule but can normally be found in the office during the hours of 8:30a to 4:30p, on at least four days during the week M-F.
- Wanda Walker, the examiner's supervisor, can be reached at (571) 272-1151 if attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful.
- The Fax number for this art unit for official faxes is (571) 273-8300.
- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mr. Terry K. Cecil
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1723

TKC
November 4, 2005

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Listing of Claims at Allowance:

Claims 1-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended) A cleaning system, comprising:

- (a) a bucket, wherein the bucket further comprises a closed bottom portion and an open top portion; and
- (b) a removable bucket insert, wherein the bucket insert sits in the bottom portion of the bucket and further comprises:
 - (i) at least one filter, wherein the filter is plate shaped and further comprises:
 - a) an upward facing side and a downward facing side; and
 - b) a plurality of intersecting crossbars, wherein the crossbars define a plurality of openings between the intersecting crossbars, and wherein the openings pass completely through the filter; and
 - (ii) a support means ~~;~~ ~~a) wherein the support means elevates~~ elevating the filter above the bottom of the bucket and consisting of ~~;~~ ~~b) wherein the support means further comprises at least two baffles, each baffle resting on the bucket bottom portion and~~ attached to or formed integrally with the downward facing side of the filter, ~~;~~ ~~and c) wherein the baffles substantially traverse~~ traversing the length and width of the filter at substantially right angles to the filter and dividing and separating the space in the bucket below the filter into four substantially equal volumes.

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (currently amended) The cleaning system of ~~claim 21~~ claim 20, wherein the system is configured such that particulate matter on a cleaning implement passes through the filter when the cleaning implement is placed in the fluid within the bucket; wherein the baffles reduce the motion of the fluid in the bottom of the bucket; and wherein a portion of the particulate matter is retained in the bucket below the filter when the bucket insert is in use.

Claim 23-24 (canceled)

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Claim 25 (previously presented) The cleaning system of claim 20, wherein the filter further comprises a grasping means for removing the bucket insert from the bucket.

Claim 26 (previously presented) The cleaning system of claim 20, wherein the crossbars on the upward facing side of the filter further include upwardly tapered edges, and wherein the tapered edges minimize the surface area of the filter.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (previously presented) The cleaning system of claim 20, wherein the shape of the filter substantially corresponds to the shape of the bucket.

Claims 29-33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (currently amended) A cleaning method, comprising:

- (a) providing an item to be cleaned, wherein the item to be cleaned further comprises removable particulate matter;
- (b) providing a cleaning implement for removing the particulate matter from the item;
- (c) providing a bucket for receiving the cleaning implement, wherein the bucket further comprises a closed bottom portion and an open top portion;
- (d) filling the bucket with a volume of cleaning fluid;
- (e) placing a removable insert into the bucket, wherein the bucket insert sits in the bottom portion of the bucket and further comprises:
 - (i) a filter, wherein the filter is plate shaped and further comprises:
 - a) an upward facing side and a downward facing side; and
 - b) a plurality of intersecting crossbars, wherein the crossbars define a plurality of openings between the intersecting crossbars; and
 - (ii) a support means ~~;~~ a) wherein the support means elevates elevating the filter above the bottom of the bucket and consisting of ~~;~~ b) wherein the support means further comprises at least two baffles, each baffle resting on the bucket bottom portion and attached to or formed integrally with the downward facing side of the

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filter, ~~and e) wherein~~ the baffles substantially ~~traverse~~ traversing the length and width of the filter at substantially right angles to the filter and dividing and separating the space in the bucket below the filter into four substantially equal volumes; and

- (f) using the cleaning implement to remove the particulate matter from the item;
- (g) rinsing the cleaning implement in the fluid; and
- (h) wherein the particulate matter passes through the filter when the cleaning implement is rinsed in the fluid; wherein the baffles reduce the motion of the fluid in the bottom of the bucket; and wherein a portion of the particulate matter is retained in the bucket below the filter.

Claim 35 (previously presented) The cleaning method of claim 34, wherein the item to be cleaned is a vehicle.

Claim 36 (previously presented) The cleaning method of claim 34, wherein the cleaning implement is at least one of a rag and a mitt.

Claim 37 (previously presented) The cleaning method of claim 34, wherein the filter further comprises a grasping means for removing the bucket insert from the bucket.

Claim 38 (previously presented) The cleaning method of claim 34, wherein the crossbars on the upward facing side of the filter further include upwardly tapered edges, and wherein the tapered edges minimize the surface area of the filter.

Claim 39 (canceled)

Claim 40 (previously presented) The cleaning method of claim 34, wherein the shape of the filter substantially corresponds to the shape of the bucket.

FIG. 1

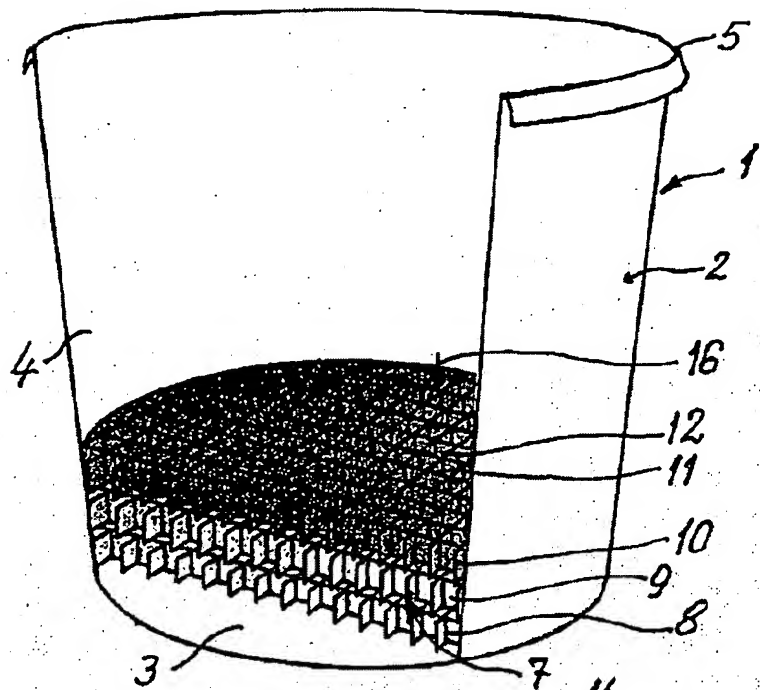


FIG. 2

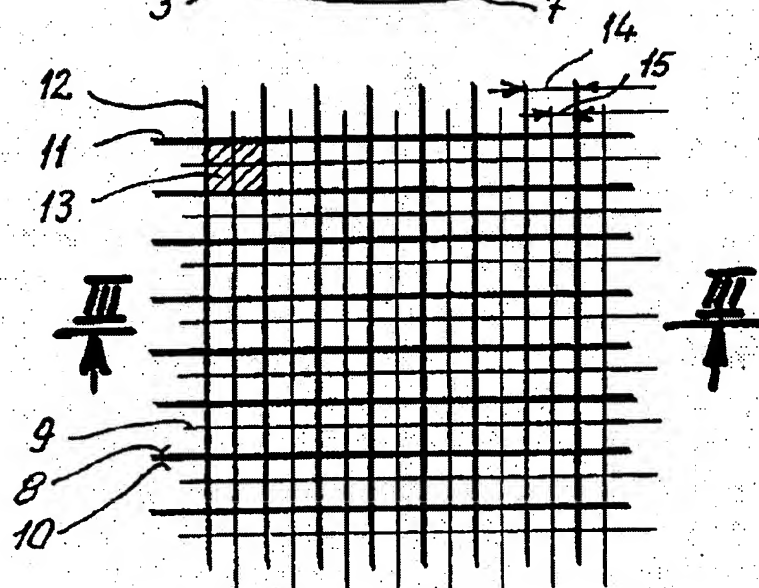


FIG. 3

